

REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 18, 2007, the drawings were again objected to “because conventional features illustrated in the drawing as rectangular boxes must be labeled. See 37 CFR 1.83(a).” In addition, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatenable over U.S. Patent Application Number 2003/0007473 A1 (hereinafter “Strong et al.”) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,577,229 (hereinafter “Bonneau et al.”).

With respect to the drawing objection, Applicants respectfully note that the drawing requirements for U.S. National Stage applications are identified in MPEP 1825 and providing labels for boxes is not required under PCT Rule 11.11. Further, MPEP 1893.03(f) states that “[t]he USPTO may not impose requirements beyond those imposed by the Patent Cooperation Treaty (e.g., PCT Rule 11).” In view of the above, Applicants respectfully assert that providing labels in boxes is not required in the current application and request that the drawing objection be withdrawn.

With respect to the claim rejections, Applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 14 to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references of Strong et al. and Bonneau et al. Applicants have also amended claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12-14, 11-14, 16 and 17 to replace the term “*adapted*” with the term “*configured*” and/or to correct minor informalities. In addition, new claims 18-20 have been added. As amended, Applicants respectfully assert that the independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 14 are not obvious in view of the cited references of Strong et al. and Bonneau et al., as explained below. In view of the claim amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims 1-9 and 11-20 be allowed.

A. Patentability of Amended Independent Claims 1, 5, 9 and 14

As amended, the independent claim 1 recites the limitation of “*the second signal-processing means being configured to code and decode the signals using one of a non-return-to-zero code and an FM zero code for the contactless station-station communication,*” which is not disclosed in the cited references of Strong et al. and Bonneau et al. Thus, the amended independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of the cited reference of Strong et al. and Bonneau et al. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended independent claim 1 be allowed.

The cited references of Strong et al. and Bonneau et al. do not disclose using either a non-return-to-zero code or an FM zero code for contactless station-to-station communication. Consequently, the cited references of Strong et al. and Bonneau et al. fails to disclose “*the second signal-processing means being configured to code and decode the signals using one of a non-return-to-zero code and an FM zero code for the contactless station-station communication,*” as recited in the amended independent claim 1. Thus, the amended independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of the cited references of Strong et al. and Bonneau et al. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended independent claim 1 be allowed.

The above remarks are also applicable to the amended independent claims 5, 9 and 14, which also recite a limitation similar to that of the amended independent claim 1. Thus, the amended independent claims 5, 9 and 14 are not obvious in view of the cited references of Strong et al. and Bonneau et al. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended independent claims 5, 9 and 14 be allowed as well.

B. Patentability of Dependent Claims 2-4, 6-8, 11-13 and 15-20

Each of the dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 11-13 and 15-20 depends on one of the amended independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 14. As such, these dependent claims include all the limitations of their respective base claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that these dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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